

THE MANITOBA
AND
GREAT
NORTH-WEST COLONY.

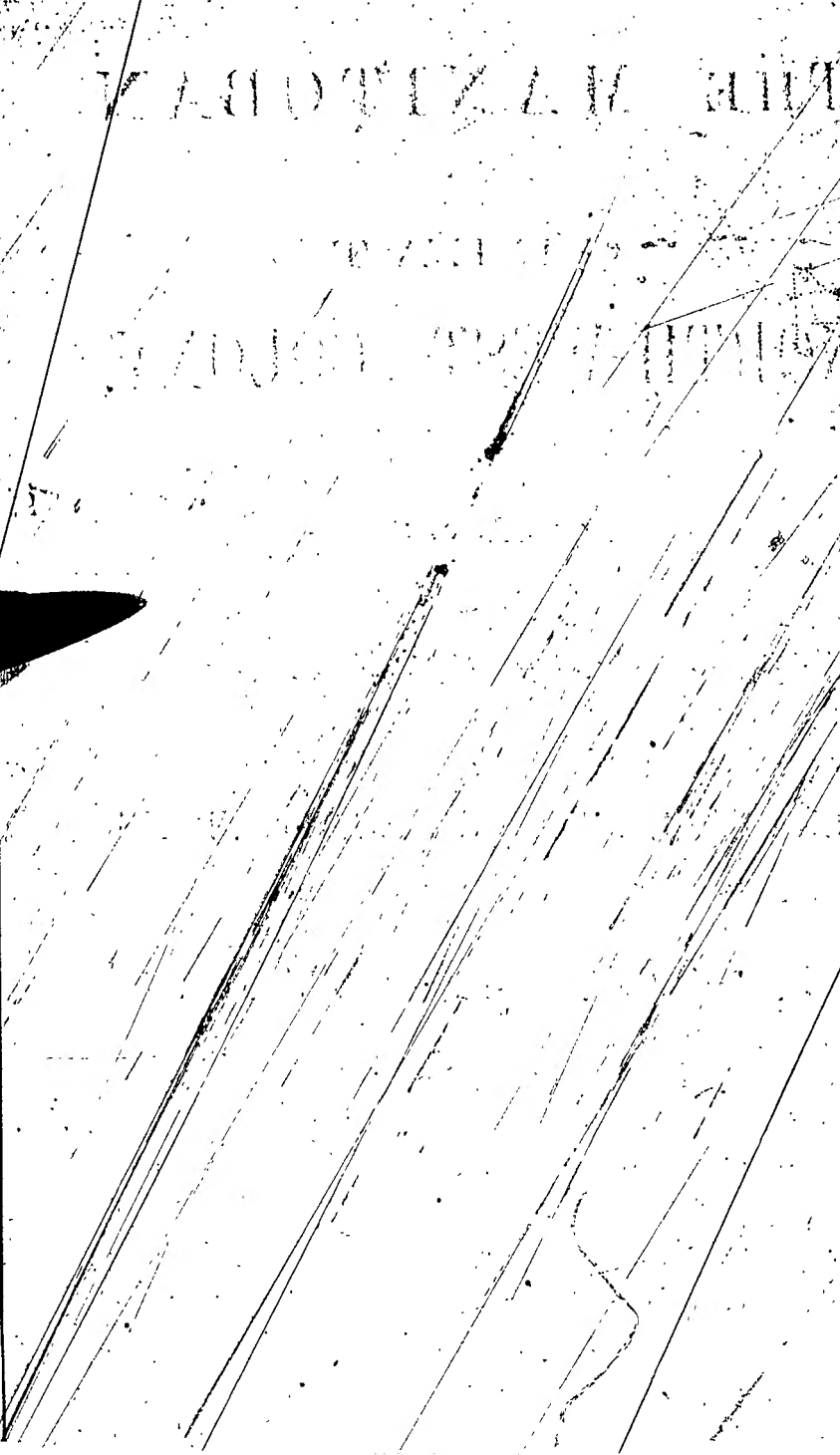
EXPLANATION
OF ITS
ADVANTAGES AND OBJECTS,
FROM
PERSONAL VISITS & NEGOTIATIONS
BY

J. W. DOWN,

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TO MY READERS.

I have just returned from the Dominion of Canada, after a long stay there for the purpose of seeing for myself what are the present benefits for the emigrants to that country. Having had in former times much personal experience, not only in emigration matters, but as a settler and a cultivator of land in the advanced districts of Canada, I am able to state my opinions; not only on the faith of what I have seen, but on the experience of what I have known.

For six years I was a resident at Hullett, in the district of Ontario, in the leading province of the great Canadian Dominion, and during that time I was myself occupied in clearing wild land, and in making myself acquainted with the conditions of the life of a settler. My last visit to Canada has been to the free grant lands Manitoba, to which I have been introduced under the auspices of the Government authorities of Ottawa, and I now state from sincere investigation and practical knowledge of the state of land in that district, that it would be utterly impossible for a man with agricultural knowledge, if placed in one of the free grant locations, to fail to become, in a short time, with common industry, not only personally independent, but the owner of the land he cultivates. I should be the last to recommend anyone to engage in this adventurous but highly successful life, who is not accustomed to what is known in England as "roughing it," but for persons with a small capital and plenty of pluck and endurance, I have no hesitation whatever in staking my reputation as an Englishman, that success lies before them in the land from which I have just returned.

The Canadian Government have in the most generous manner, allotted to me eight townships situated in the North West Territory for the purpose of colonization. And my desire is to utilize it, by associating myself with a number of people who may be inclined, having agricultural knowledge, to emancipate themselves from the condition of tenants or servants, and become their own masters in a new and great land. Every person on arrival will be placed in possession of 160 acres of good land of his own, to cultivate at his leisure.

The Canadian Government have not only conceded the grant of land I have already mentioned, but they are prepared to render the most liberal assistance towards the passage.

J. W. DOWN,

BATH BRIDGE, BRISTOL.

THE MANITOBA AND GREAT NORTH WEST COLONY.

Having in view a reform in the old plans of emigration, under which each emigrant was left to find a place for himself; to be as it were a stranger in a new country; I left England last May, and arrived at Ottawa, the Capital of the Dominion of Canada, on June 6th. I at once addressed myself to the Government, and was provided with every facility for passing to the district in which the land I propose to settle is situated. The grant which has been made to me by the Government of the Dominion of Canada consists of eight townships of land, each township consisting of six square miles. The grant is situated in the Saskatchewan country, in the Great North-west Territory of the Dominion of Canada. It is about 12 miles from the settlement of Palestine, where there is already a Post Office; and the means of communication to the district are already provided from the capital city of Winnipeg.

One of the great difficulties which settlers in Canada have hitherto had to contend with is the removal of trees. In the district granted to me by the Canadian Government, there are but few trees which will interfere with agriculture, so that this difficulty, which has caused despair to so many emigrants to Canada, will in no degree arise. The lands are of good quality, and consists both of black clay, and sandy loam, and, as may naturally be supposed from their prairie condition, they will not for a generation to come, require any of the artificial stimulants for production, which the land of older countries demand. The location is situated on the main track to the Saskatchewan country, and on the main line to the Rocky Mountains, and it is a matter of positive fact that when the Great Canadian Pacific Railway comes to be built, as it must be built, the district in question will be immediately upon the line of that great artery of commercial communication.

It has been admitted by those who have been engaged in surveying the lands of this district, with the view of indulging in land speculations, that the agricultural fertility of the district which has been granted to

me cannot in any way be surpassed. It is watered by streams of crystal purity, and indeed, nothing is wanting except the labour of man to turn this beautiful prairie into a land of fertility and promise. The great recommendation of the location is this, that although most of the farms are without timber, and you can drive with a plough a straight furrow for miles together, there are in the district bluffs of timber, which are quite sufficient to supply anything that is necessary in the way of fuel and building purposes for years to come.

I propose to associate with myself in the grant of the Canadian Government, a number of enterprising persons who may desire with a small amount of capital, to render themselves, in a very short time, thoroughly independent; and I pledge myself personally, after examining the whole of the lands that they are in quality as good as any to be found in England. With ordinary cultivation, and without manurial stimulus, they will grow all kinds of grain and grasses quite equal to the heaviest of those which have been recorded in the best harvests in this country.

The colonists will have a home market for all produce they may raise for years to come at good prices, in fact they may depend on this until the great railroad, now under construction, is completed. They may raise any number of cattle and find ready sale for same, the cost of raising cattle on the prairie is a mere nothing, in fact only the trouble of looking after them. Stock-raising is a profitable business in the Great North West.

The colony is not more than 20 days' journey from Old England, and it will be a matter of great satisfaction to those who may go to know that they will still live under the proud flag of Great Britain, and will continue to be loyal and prosperous subjects of her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria.

It would not be easy for any of those who have studied the social problems of Great Britain, to imagine an opportunity of greater promise to those who, having strong arms, and free aspirations, and who wish to emancipate themselves from the iron bonds of poverty, which unfortunately encircle the agricultural population of this country. It is necessary and indeed politic that those who care to embark in it, should let the undersigned know without delay of their decision. He speaks from personal knowledge, from previous engagement in the work himself, and he personally pledges himself that every word which has here been set down, or which will hereafter appear in reference to this matter, can be corroborated and sustained upon the highest possible testimony.

ADVICE TO COLONISTS.

Take care to collect every tool and mechanical instrument that you have in your possession, no matter of what kind; it will be useful. Again take all the clothes you can possibly collect, and also all beds and bed-

ding, together with knives, forks, and all the crockery you can pack away amongst your clothing without fear of its being broken.

Single men should above all things take beds and blankets, and in fact it is not possible to name any article of clothing or domestic use, which will not become in the country to which you are going valuable.

It will be advisable to take as many fish-hooks and implements of angling as you possibly can gather together, inasmuch as you will find that the streams will afford any quantity of fish if you only have the means of securing them: also, you should be provided with a gun, as the district is thickly populated by deer, prairie chickens, Canadian partridges, rabbits, ducks, wild geese, and pigeons, and in fact, if a man is skilful with his gun he may shoot enough game to keep himself all the winter.

Colonists should not attempt to take with them furniture of any description, and nothing in the shape of pots or kettles, with the single exception of the teapot. They should if possible provide themselves with a quantity of small seeds, such as parsnips, lettuce, cabbage, &c., which they will find extremely useful in working out their new life.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PALESTINE, SITUATED AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 12 MILES FROM THE COLONY LANDS.

Palestine is a flourishing village in the district of *Morquette*, province of Manitoba, situated on the Jordan river, which flows into Big Grass Lake. About four miles from the village, thirty-seven miles from *Portage la Prairie*, it contains Post Office, two churches, a school-house, store, blacksmith's shop, &c. The first settlement being made in 1872. Palestine lies fourteen miles south of Lake Manitoba, in which numerous kinds of fish abound, thirty miles east of the Reding Mountains, and one hundred miles west of Winnipeg, on the proposed route of the Canada Pacific Railroad.

ROUTE AND RATE OF PASSAGE.

Emigrants will be taken from Liverpool by an Allan Royal Mail Steamer to Quebec, then by Grand Trunk Railway to Sarnia, from thence to Duluth, by the Beatty Mail Steamer; then by Northern-Pacific Railroad to Fisher's Landing, then by Red River Steamer to Winnipeg, Manitoba. With the assistance rendered by the Dominion Government, the Passage Money will not exceed £10 per adult from Liverpool through to the reserve in the Great Saskatchewan Country.

Each member of the colony will get 160 acres of land free, with the option of purchasing 480 acres more adjoining the same, at One Dollar per acre, *Four Shillings and Twopence sterling*. Mr. Down will go out as often as necessary with the colonists. Mr. Down will sail with the first party from Liverpool, on July 26th.

Intending colonists not able to go out this year, may by sending name, age, and deposit towards passage money, secure their grant, and proceed with the second party in the spring of 1878. This reserve is made solely for British subjects, and to be always known as the British Colony of the Great North West.

The following is an abstract from a letter written by Wm. J. Wills, Esq., Dominion Agent at Ottawa, to Mr. Down, dated April 14, 1877:

Over 60 persons leave here next week for Manitoba; are taking with them 4 box cars of stock, &c. They are all Canadian born, such men as are accustomed to farming, stock raising, &c. They are all wealthy, and carry with them a very large amount of means. During this Summer it is supposed that over 6000 will go to Manitoba to locate, chiefly from the United States. This tide of emigration from Canada, and the United States to Manitoba, will increase yearly.

Signed WM. J. WILLS.

Plan showing the mode of settlement, No. of Farm Lots, &c. Each square contains 640 acres belonging to each Lot, numbered. The stars (*) denote where houses will be built by the Colonists.

55 *	Third Main Road through British Colony.		* 56	57 *	Second Main Road through British Colony.		* 58	59 *	First Main Road through British Colony.		* 60
54 *			* 53	52 *			* 51	50 *			* 49
43 *			* 44	45 *			* 46	47 *			* 48
42 *			* 41	40 *			* 39	38 *			* 37
31 *			* 32	33 *			* 34	35 *			* 36
30 *	Third Main Road through British Colony.		* 29	28 *	Second Main Road through British Colony.		* 27	26 *	First Main Road through British Colony.		* 25
19 *			* 20	21 *			* 22	23 *			* 24
18 *			* 17	16 *			* 15	14 *			* 13
7 *			* 8	9 *			* 10	11 *			* 12
6 *			* 5	4 *			* 3	2 *			* 1

THE NEW PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

PARTICULARS OF THE MENONITE SETTLEMENT

COMFORT AND PROSPERITY IN TWO YEARS.

REPORT BY AN EYE WITNESS.

Intending Emigrants will be glad of the information contained in the following, which is the result of actual inspection and investigation.

J. W. DOWN,

Bath Bridge, Bristol.

I reached Winnipeg, the principal City in the Province of Manitoba, better known as Fort Garry, on June 29th, 1876, and once made arrangements to travel over and inspect the Province. On Friday the 30th I hired a conveyance, and drove out a few miles on the Selkirk Road, and saw some old settlers, who have this year sown largely of wheat, barley, and oats, the crops looked splendid; from these settlers I obtained a deal of information of the agriculture of the province for years gone by.

I enquired very minutely concerning the grasshoppers of which we had heard so much, and am happy to be able to say these old settlers declare they have no fear of them in the future; I find this Province has been free of these pests for a period of thirty years in one stretch and the settlers are confident that they are now enjoying one of these periods.

Everyone seems satisfied that when the country gets more cultivated there will be no more grasshoppers, which are the only things agriculturists in this province have to fear at present.

Some of these settlers stated to me that at one time California and the states of Illinois and Wisconsin were invaded by grasshoppers, but as the States got settled, and the lands cultivated, the grasshopper disappeared. This is common sense, and every person has great faith that cultivation will have the same effect in this great and delightful Province of Manitoba. In fact there are no grasshoppers this year in the province, and settlers are so sanguine that they have seen the worst of this plague that they have this year strained every nerve, and sown as large as possible of every kind of grain; and at the time of my visit, nothing could look more promising than the results of the sowing. I made every enquiry as to the cost of oxen, cows, &c, and the cost of farming implements in general; also as to the cost of breaking the prairie lands, and how much could be broken per day, and whether it could be broken with one yoke of oxen or not, particulars of which I will give hereafter. At night I returned to Winnipeg well satisfied with my day's enquiries.

On the Monday morning, July 3rd, I left Winnipeg in the company of Mr. WM. HESPLER, Dominion Agent, and after crossing the Assiniboine River, drove down as far as the Scratching River. We then drove out and visited the Menonites settled on the banks of this river, and camped there for the night. I found twenty-nine families in this settlement, settled in two small villages about two miles apart. The people settle down in complete villages. When they first move in, they build sod houses, and live in them for the first year, or until they can build one of hewn logs or sawn timber. All in each village appear to be united and as one family; they work hard and are economical: for instance they save a deal of labour in fencing, they merely fence one main road through each village, and fence in a square yard to each house; one man herds all the cattle on the prairies by day; he calls at each house in the morning, takes all the cattle away on the prairies together and brings them back again at night, and shuts them up in the yard.

Each village has its own herder. These Menonites, as I said before, on the Scratching river, consists of 29 families. They moved in during September, 1874, without a house or even a tent, nothing but the sky for their roofs and they were fully 8 to 10 miles away from both fuel and timber for building purposes. I find them now with good comfortable houses, well-built with sawn timber in each, worth on the average £100.

They have large herds of cattle and horses, they have all kinds of farming implements, including ploughs, reapers, mowers, &c. They have this year 700 acres of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, &c. to harvest, and better looking crops I never saw in the country. They have also splendid gardens full of all kinds of vegetables. They have 225 acres

of new land fresh broken for next year, and still intend breaking more. These people had money with them when they moved in, but every bit of the work has been done by their own hands, not even a man was hired a day at either house.

On the Menonite reserve, east of the Red River, better known as the Rat River Settlement, I find there are 380 families which moved in during 1874 and 1875, and settled in 32 villages. Each village has a name, I presume, named after the village the settlers left in Southern Russia. These people have over 4,000 acres of grain to harvest this year. They have a large quantity broken and are still breaking more for next season. They have good houses, stables, &c., and two churches. They have made capital roads all through the settlements, and have built two windmills to grind their grain.

On the Menonite reserve, west of the Red River, or better known as the Dufferin Settlement we spent two days. I found there about 30 families settled in various villages all over the reserve, which consists of 17 Townships each 6 square miles. The first part of these moved in in September, 1875, others this spring, all are living as yet in their new houses. But every one of these people are building a good house of new logs or sawn timber, and a church, a capital large frame building, will be completed this summer.

The people have 1475 acres under crop chiefly of Wheat and Potatoes. A very large quantity of this was only broken this spring, and the grain sown on the green sod, nevertheless it looks well, especially the potatoes. The wheat I would consider likely to yield a good half crop, 15 bushels per acre. These as well as in the other settlements have large herds of cattle, waggons, ploughs, harrows, and all kinds of farming implements. In fact I think every family in all these settlements has either horses and waggons, or oxen and waggons, and all kind of farming implements for use. I noticed large numbers of new arrivals moving into both reserves from Emerson a flourishing village on the Red River.

The Menonites are without a doubt the best settlers that have ever emigrated to that great and delightful province. No man could believe what these people have done in so short a time unless from the evidence of his own eyes. As I visited almost every one of the villages and saw for myself, I can vouch for its correctness that they stand just as I have written. They are settled on the open Prairie lands, situated many miles from timber. I spoke to several of them on this point, my answer in every case was "We do not mind this, we have a good land and can grow good crops." In fact all are perfectly satisfied and appear to be the most happy race of people it has ever been my lot to meet. Many of them speak English, and seem desirous to learn, especially the young people. They will make good neighbours to those who may settle near them. Their land is good, and they will find plenty of good water by digging from 10 to 20 feet. In fact whoever lives to see a few years

by will find these Menonites a very wealthy and respected people in this great province. In my three weeks steady travel over this province I have seen nothing as regards industry equal to that of the Menonites. They are in fact, a hive of busy bees, and would be a credit to any country. Intending settlers may congratulate themselves upon having such a people for neighbours.

WORD TO TENANT FARMERS AND SMALL CAPITALISTS.

I can conscientiously advise Tenant Farmers having a small capital of from £150 to £300, to go to the province of Manitoba, or Great North West Territory, where the land is good, the climate healthy, and the advantages offered unequalled in any Colony or Country in the world. These prairie lands are so rich and so easily worked, that any man with the above Capital, having the slightest knowledge of farming, cannot fail to make large profits. The Government gives 160 acres free to actual settlers with the privilege to purchase more adjoining at the rate of one dollar per acre. These Prairie lands, broken in June, ploughed again in September, and sown with Wheat in the following spring, will yield a good crop; and when the Wheat stubble is ploughed again, this land would be in as good a state of cultivation as any land to be found in any part of the world. Not a weed would appear unless the seed is sown with the grain by the farmer. From what I have seen, and the information I have gathered, and from what I have seen in other provinces and countries, I have come to the conclusion, that the soil, climate, and other natural advantages of Manitoba, are conducive to its successful farming, and that a poor man may make a living more easily in Manitoba than in any other part of the Dominion of Canada, or the United States.

What more could a person wish for than some of the best land in the world, level, and easily worked, in a healthy climate, under the British flag, where every provision is made for school purposes? Where the prairies abound with game, including Canadian partridges, grouse, rabbit, and various kinds of deer, including the moose, elk, and caribou, while in the spring, hundreds of geese and ducks are to be seen and as well as pigeons.

All the rivers and streams abound with every kind of fish, and game and fish are free to any one who can take them. In Manitoba, there are no game laws, for only during the breeding season are game and fish protected by law. Of the fur bearing animals, there are the beaver, otter, mink, and muskrat, while buffaloes are plentiful in the North West. In short the great district of Manitoba and the great North West, to the Rocky Mountains, present superior attractions to the tourist and sportsman, as well as to the agriculturist.

HOW THE PRAIRIE LANDS ARE BROKEN.

The months of June and July are the best months to break ground in, as the grass has then its growth full of sap, &c., and decays readily. One yoke of oxen will break one acre per day through June, but when the ground gets hard, it requires two yoke, which will break one acre and a half per day. The first breaking should not be more than two and a half inches deep, with a furrow from fourteen to sixteen inches wide. The second ploughing should go deeper, and bring up some of the beautiful rich black soil. One pair of horses or yoke of oxen will work these lands very easily after the first breaking.

As a rule, wheat or barley should not be sown on the green sod, only on lands after ploughing; but peas and potatoes may very well be sown or planted with one ploughing, that is on the green sod, or prairie sod once ploughed. All kinds of roots grow enormously heavy crops.

The following are the prices of horses, cattle, provisions, &c., in the city of Winnipeg at present, and, from information I have obtained, it may be set down as a ruling price for the next four years:—

Horses, per pair	...	...	...	300 dollars.	362
Oxen, per yoke	...	...	...	150	37
Good Cows, from	...	...	...	30 to 35	6
Waggons, from	...	...	...	80 to 85	18
One Ox Cart	...	...	...	15 to 20	3
„ Harness	...	...	...	7 to 9	3
Breaking Plough...	...	...	...	25 to 30	6
Harrow	...	...	...	10 to 16	2
Cooking Stove, with furniture	...	...	...	25 to 40	„
Flour, per barrel...	...	...	...	6	„
Beef, per pound	...	...	10 cents to 15 cents.	„	„
Pork, per barrel	...	...	18 to 25 dollars.	„	„
Butter, per pound	...	...	25 cents.	„	„
Eggs, per dozen	...	...	25	„	„
Potatoes, per bushel	...	...	75	„	„
Wheat	„	...	1 dollar 50	„	„
Peas	„	...	1	„	„
Barley	„	...	1	„	25
Oats	„	...	1	„	„

Sawn timber for building, per thousand feet, from 22 to 35 dollars.

AVERAGE CROPS GROWN IN MANITOBA.

Wheat, per acre	...	...	...	35 bushels.
Barley	„	...	...	40 „
Peas	„	...	...	40 „
Oats	„	...	...	50 „
Potatoes	„	...	...	200 „

THE COST OF BUILDING A HOUSE.

It is very difficult to get a fair estimate, as it would entirely depend on the kind of house built and the district, but I think a good comfortable house could be built of hewn logs for \$200, but Colonists living on lands in the British Colony, with their own help could get a good comfortable house for \$100, which would last them for years.

CLOTHING

IS NOT EXCESSIVELY HIGH.

Men's suits from	...	...	\$ 8.00
Children's suits from	...	...	2.50
Mens corduroy trousers	...	...	2.25
Winseys per yard	...	...	0.12½
Prints	...	...	0.8 to 0.16
Sheeting, 72 in. wide, per yard	...	...	0.45
Grey cotton, per yard	...	...	0.06½ „ 0.25
Flannel, Saxony	...	...	0.35 „ 0.75
Flannel, Welsh	...	...	0.30 „ 1.00
Flannel Shirtings	...	...	0.30 „ 0.60
Blankets, average weight 10 lbs., per pound	...	...	0.60 „ 0.65